

C A M P A I G N F O R
ACCOUNTABILITY

August 16, 2018

By FAX: 225-342-3095

Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections
ATTN: Deputy Secretary's Office
P.O. Box 94304
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Re: Public Information Act Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability ("CfA") makes this request for records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:1 *et seq.*

Specifically, CfA seeks from the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections (the "Department") any and all records related to the Choose Life license plate program, and Louisiana Right to Life Education Committee (the "Committee"). This includes, but is not limited to, any communications, documents, contracts, applications, agreements, or reports related to the Choose Life Grant Program (the "Program"), any communications to, from, or between any member of the Committee and the Department, and any guidelines or instructions regarding how Program funds are distributed. This request also includes all records regarding the amount of money and recipients of funds distributed for the Program.

This request is for records from January 1, 2015 to the present.

By way of background, on July 1, 1999, then-Governor Mike Foster signed HB 2082 into law.¹ HB 2082 directed the Department to establish a Choose Life license plate designed by the Choose Life Advisory Council (the "Council").² Revenue from each license plate was placed into a fund managed by the state treasurer, and the Council was tasked with reviewing grants and sending grant award recommendations to the state treasurer.³ On July 10, 2009, then-Governor Bobby Jindal signed SB 289 into law, replacing the Council with the Committee.⁴ Under SB 289, the Department is to collect a royalty fee for each Choose Life plate, and at every quarter distribute the collected fees to the Committee.⁵

¹ Creates the "Choose Life" prestige license plate, Act 729, July 1, 2009.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ Replaces the Choose Life Advisory Council with the Louisiana Right to Life Education Committee, Act 496, July 10, 2009.

⁵ *Id.*

CfA seeks records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs. This request includes any letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. This request also includes any attachments to these records.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure pursuant to La. Rev. Stat. Ann §§ 44:2-23.1, please state the basis of the exemption. Please provide a written notice indicating the basis for that determination within three days of the receipt of this request. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:32D. If a requested record contains material that is exempt from disclosure as well as material that is not exempt, please produce the portions of the record that are not exempt. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:32B.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, CfA request that the information be provided without charge. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:32C(2). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please respond to this request within five business days of receipt, as requested by La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 44:35A, either by providing a determination of exemption of the records, producing the records, or providing a timeline for when the records will be produced. If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, #337, Washington, DC 20003.

If you are unable to meet this statutory mandate, foresee any problems in releasing the records in whole or in part, or have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-780-5750. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable to Department to process it. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director